

Going deeper

The story of Gideon is a well known one in the book of Judges. At the time Israel is being harshly oppressed by a vast number of marauding Midianites. But God calls Gideon to lead a small Israelite force of only 300 against the vast Midianite army. Inspired from overhearing a Midianite's dream, Gideon surrounds the camp and throws it into confusion with trumpets and torches. This is a story of war but check out how Gideon keeps peace with the Ephraimites, an important Israelite tribe.

Read Judges 7:22-8:3

5. Why are Gideon's tactics successful?
6. When does Gideon call on the Ephraimites for help? (cf. 6:34-35) Was the Ephraimite complaint (8:1) justified?
7. How would you have felt if you were in Gideon's position and this is how the Ephraimites behaved?
8. Why is Gideon's response so wise? (cf. Proverbs 15:1)
9. Read Judges 12:1-6. How does Jephthah's response contrast with Gideon's? What is the result of his response? (Jephthah was the judge whose rash promise led to his daughter's death – 11:29-35,39).

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Week Beginning
Sunday 18th March 2018**

Growth Team News

This week Growth Teams are back to the topic of P.O.P. church as we consider how we are called to be a 'People of Peace.' Join with others in a Growth Team to explore this topic further and to build the kind of supportive and deep relationships that we are called to as a church.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

People of Peace

Philippians 4:2-9 (page 1180)

Space to take notes on the talk

The cross: _____?

Seven ways to promote peace:

i. Re _____

ii. Re _____

iii. Re _____

iv. Re _____

v. Re _____

vi. Re _____

vii. Re _____

Starter question

- ❖ What is the best story of human reconciliation you have come across?

Responding to the talk

1. In one sentence what would you say was the key message of this week's talk?
2. Read Philippians 4:2-3
 - a. What does Paul want Euodia and Syntyche to do?
 - b. Who is to help them? Why might they need help?
 - c. What does Paul say about these women? (cf. 1:5; 3:20) How might it encourage them to seek reconciliation?
3. Read Philippians 4:4-7
 - a. How does Paul emphasise the need to rejoice? (cf. 1:18; 2:2, 17-18, 29; 3:1; 4:10) How does this help reconciliation?
 - b. What might it look like to show gentleness to those you are in dispute with? (cf. Rom. 12:17-21)
 - c. How does prayer help us reject anxiety? Why is thanksgiving an important part of this?
4. Read Philippians 4:8-9
 - a. How does thinking about what is listed in 4:8 make you feel?
 - b. How might looking for those qualities in others help us be at peace with them?
 - c. How does Paul's example help promote peace? (cf. 1:3-5; 1:18; 2:17, 19; 3:7-9, 17; 4:11-13)

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. Which of the seven ways to promote peace do you think is most helpful within Christian communities?
11. A Christian friend comes to you complaining about a work colleague. How might you encourage them to respond in the light of what we've learnt from this passage?